

100
Ch. May
1925

held upon the body of

John Robert Murphy
at Melbourne Province

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

9 - MAY 1925

6. 4. 0.

Corner.

11842.

J. B. Brown

Quinn
1-8-6

RECEIVED
9 - MAY 1925
C. L. O.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

VICTORIA }
To Wit. }

AN INQUISITION for our Sovereign Lord King George V., taken at
the Morgue, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, the 6th
day of May A.D. 1925 in the sixteenth
year of the reign of our said Lord the King, by me, Daniel Berriman,
gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King for the said State, upon the view
of the body of John Robert Murphy
then and there lying dead.

Having inquired upon the part of our Lord the King, when, where, how,
and by what means the said John Robert Murphy

(1) His or her.

came by¹ his death, I say that

JP

on the 29th

day of

~~March~~

April

1925

at Balaclava Road Caulfield

in the said

State the said John Robert Murphy

(2) Here state cause
of death, if known;
if unknown, doubt-
ful, or no evidence,
state the fact ac-
cordingly.

died from²

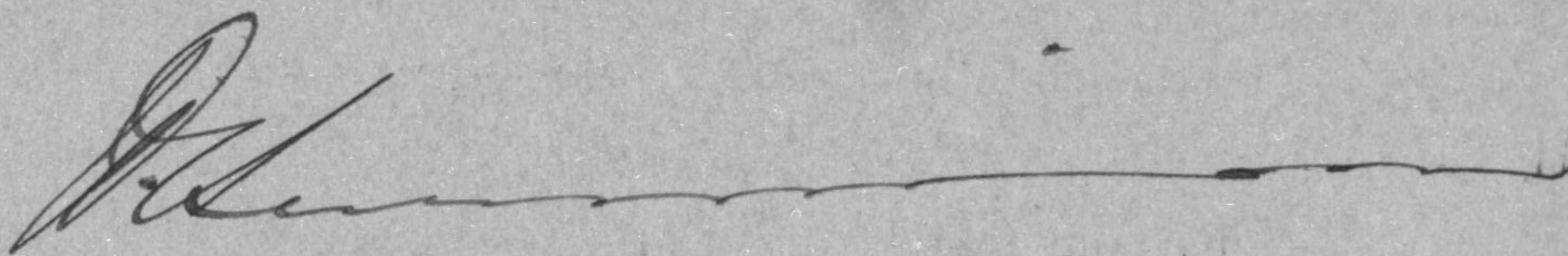
a gunshot wound self

implicated.

In witness whereof, I, the aforesaid Coroner, have to this Inquisition

put my hand this 6th day of May

A.D. 19 25

A long, flowing handwritten signature in cursive script, starting with a large, ornate initial and extending across the page.

Coroner.

Caulfield Station

Bourke Police District

30 4 1925

REPORT of Const Gosling 7729
Relative to Death of John Robert Murphy.

Mr. Berriman

City Morgue

I have to report that about 11 pm on 29th April 1925. Dr. Quinn of 17 Finch St Caulfield called at this Station and reported the death of John Robert Murphy of 263 Balacalaba Rd Caulfield aged 56 years.

I proceeded to the above address where I saw the body of deceased lying on the floor of a bungalow which he was occupying some distance from the Bourke. The body was clad in pyjamas and the head lying in a pool of blood, when I lifted the body off the floor, I found a portion of the head had been blown away and directly above the body a bullet hole was through the roof. I had the body removed to the City Morgue.

3 From my enquiries I found deceased had been suffering great pain, owing to advanced stage of Consumption.

4 He was constantly attended to by Dr. Quinn.

5 A young man named Philip Daniel Haurahan was employed by deceased as his Secretary and was with deceased until 2.30 pm on 29th inst.

6 He was last seen alive by his son John Robert Murphy, when he appeared to be in his usual spirits.

Inquest
Haurahan
30 4 25

over

7 Some little time later than 2³⁰ pm deceased wife visited the bungalow and found her husband as described.

8 Dr. Quin was called and had removed the repeating rifle from between deceased legs before my arrival and had extracted an empty shell from the breach and two cartridges from the magazine, which he brought to this Station.

9 From my examination deceased must have been sitting on the side of his bed with his head over the rifle, when the rifle was discharged.

10 In my opinion death was self inflicted and there does not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

Lt Gosling
Const 7729.

Caulfield
30/4/25

Mr. Berriman

For information

961
25

A C Steinfert-
Const 44109

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

PHILLIP DANIEL HANRAHAN

on his oath saith, I am a

SECRETARY

residing at

263 BALACLAVA ROAD CAULFIELD

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

On the 29th April 1925 at about 5 a.m. I went to where deceased lived in a Bungalow, It is close to where I sleep I saw deceased there. He said that his throat was bad. I sprayed it for him, with a lotion prescribed by Dr Quinn. I attended him till 2.30 p.m. I went for some oysters. He appeared to be in good spirits all the morning. He was suffering, He was always cheerful, He had been suffering for 3 years. He had been attended by several Doctors He was an expert shot with a gun, from what I was told. He had two guns and a Winchester repeating rifle in his room (Rifle produced.) About 3.20 P.M. that day I met deceased's son on the back verandah. That was Jack Murphy. He said "Quick Phil Dad's gone." I rushed to the Bungalow. I saw deceased lying between a table and his bed on his right side. The rifle was lying in between his legs. I saw that the head was lying in a pool of blood. The body was lying East and West I did not touch the body. I saw later that the right side of the head was blown away. I was there with Dr Quinn. I examined a spittoon it was a third part full of blood. That was at the back of the body. I think that that was haemorrhage from the lung of deceased. I saw Dr Quinn take the rifle and take it away. There were two live, and one dead shell taken from the rifle. Deceased had been suffering great agony the last fortnight. On the 30th April I identified the body at the Morgue.

Phillip Daniel Hanrahan

Taken and sworn before me the 6th day

of

192

at

May Melbourne

[Signature]
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

JOHN ROBERT MURPHY

on his oath saith, I am a WOOL SORTER

residing at

263 BALACLAVA ROAD CAULFIELD

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

I am a son of deceased John Robert Murphy. Owing to a complaint decease suffered from, we had a bungalow for him, built away from the house. He had been a great sufferer. HE had for some months been confined to his bed. On the 29th April about 2.p.m. I was working in the garden. I had been Talking to him about wool. I left him and he was then in good spirits. I went outside and went about 40 yards away I closed the door on him. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, I heard my Mother scream. She was standing at the door of the Bungalow I went over and saw my Father lying on the floor, as described by the last witness, N Hanrahan. I phoned for Dr Quinn. My Father was a good shot with a gun. He had the rifle produced in the Bungalow, also two shot guns. He was aged 56 years.

TO THE CORONER

He had been ill for 3 years. During the last 3 months he suffered much. He was quite clear in his mind. It had depressed him. He had never threatened to take his life. He knew that he was dangerously ill. He had had a couple of Haemorrhages. He had no trouble except his ill health.

J R Murphy

Taken and sworn before me the 6th day
of May 1925 at McBorne
[Signature]
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* FRANK ALBERT GOSLING

on his oath saith, I am a CONSTABLE

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at CAULFIELD

At about 4.p.m. on the 29th April last from some thing I was told by Dr Quinn, I went to 263 Balaclave Road Caulfield At the rear of the premises, I entered a Bungalow, and there saw the body of deceased lying on its right side on the floor. The head was lying in a pool of blood. The body was clad in Pyjamas. When it was lifted I saw that the right hand part of the skull was blown away. I examined the room and saw a bullet hole directly above where deceased lay, through the roof. I saw the rifle produced leaning against the wall at the feet of deceased. I did not examine it. I have made inquiries in the case. I have found nothing suspicious. I took the body to the Morgue.

F. A. Gosling
Const 4829

Taken and sworn before me the 6th day
of May 1925 at McElburne
[Signature]
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent* *Bernard Haseltine Dunn*
 on h^e oath saith, I am a *Registered Medical Practitioner*
 residing at *Woodroffe Thyl H. Mowen and I*
in chief is assistant to Dr H. Mowen
of 6 Finch St E. Caulfield at which
address our practice is carried on.
 On *Wednesday April 29th 1925* I received
 a call in answer to which I went ^{at about}
3.10 P.M. to the residence of *John Robert*
Murphy 263 Balclutha Rd Caulfield. I
 was met by *Philip H. Mowen* who
 told me that *Mr Murphy* was dead.
 On entering his sleeping-out apartment,
 I discovered his body lying on the floor
 alongside the bed. His position was
 such that the feet were nearest the
 door. There was a *38.55 Winchester*
repeating rifle between the legs with
 the muzzle pointed towards the head of
 deceased. I could see at a glance that
 life was extinct. I first removed the
 rifle and extracted one exploded shell
 from the breech and two live cartridges
 from the magazine, which I handed to
 the police. My examination showed
 that death had occurred probably less
 than an hour before that time. I
 discovered that the hard palate had been
 shattered and that the skull had been
 practically blown to pieces. Portions of the
 skull and fragments of brain substance
 were scattered about the floor.

B. Dunn

Taken and sworn before me the day

of 192

at

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

* Christian and Surname in full.

residing at

There was also considerable haemorrhage - the blood stains staining the bedding, floor, walls and ceiling. I ~~noticed~~^{saw} that there was a hole of recent make in the ceiling and roof. I think that deceased set on the right side of his bed, & put the rifle ~~base~~ in his mouth. I communicated the facts to the police.

I knew the deceased for about 12 months & I know that he had been under the care of Dr. Hornor for some time previously. I had been attending him at intervals during the 12 months & continuously for about the last 2 months. He was suffering from pulmonary & laryngeal intercurrent as well as chronic alcoholism which had not been so marked recently. I found the opinion that there was no chance of permanent recovery. & during the last month the deceased seemed to realize the same thing. He never showed any sign of mental aberration & particularly had shown no sign of suicidal tendencies. I knew he had firearms in his room.

St. Peter

Taken and sworn before me the 6th day of May 1925 at Melbourne

Coroner.